

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



KATE BROWNING
County Legislator, 3rd District
Public Safety Committee, Chair

Media Release
July 31, 2015

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

1120 Montauk Hwy., Suite G
Mastic, NY 11950
Fax: (631) 852-1303

Contact: Joshua Slaughter
631-852-1300
631-456-1718

Legislator Browning Honors Marine Bureau Officers Chris DeFeo & Ray Harkins

*Rescue 11 Year Old from Drowning at Smith Point Beach; 15 Year Old
Saved by Family Member*



(Pictured left to right: Capt. James Connell, Officer Chris DeFeo, Legislator Kate Browning, Officer Ray Harkins and Deputy Inspector Ed Vitale)

Hauppauge, NY – At the Suffolk County Legislature’s Tuesday, July 28, 2015 general meeting in Hauppauge, Marine Bureau Officers Chris DeFeo and Ray Harkins were honored by Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) for a daring rescue that saved the life of an eleven year old girl at Smith Point County Park. A family member saved the life of a fifteen year old girl that was also drowning.

On the evening of Sunday, July 5, 2015, Marine Bureau Officers Chris DeFeo and Ray Harkins were on patrol at the Smith Point Park Pavilion. A man approached the officers and indicated he had heard screaming coming from the water in front of the TWA Flight 800 International Memorial at approximately 8pm. The officers

ran to the beach and observed fifteen year old Adreina Collado and eleven year old Jairiamy Collado approximately 75 to 100 yards in the water. The two girls were struggling to stay afloat and appeared to be caught in a rip tide.

As the officers approached, a male relative was approximately 75 yards from the shore and was able to pull Adreina Collado out of the water. Marine Bureau Officer Ray Harkins with his fellow Officer Chris DeFeo rescued Jairiamy Collado out of the rip tide. Both girls were transported to Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center where they were treated for non-life threatening injuries.

“Officers’ Harkins and DeFeo put their lives on the line to save another, and I commend them for their bravery and quick action,” stated Legislator Kate Browning. “Every day our courageous men and women of the Suffolk County Police Department put their lives in jeopardy to protect our residents, and I was proud to recognize these two mazing officers for their great work when someone was in need.”

###